Central assistance to States

2458. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central assistance to States has fallen considerably than the projections during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to reach the targets in the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Normal Central Asssistance of Rs. 16591.62 crores have been released to States against allocation of Rs. 17452.93 crores for the Annual Plan 2001-02. Shortfall in release is due to cuts imposed on account of shortfall in plan expenditure as per guidelines of the Planning Commission and on account of non-submission of audited expenditure details. States are being requested to take necessary measures to improve utilisation of Central Assistance allocated for the Annual Plans.

Broad based budgetary proposals

2459. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held discussion with different strata of society *viz.* industrials, trade unions, agriculturists etc. before the formulation of the broad based proposals;

(b) whether the State Governments have urged upon Government to have similar consultation with them so that they could present their view point to Government;

(c) whether the involvement of State Government will keep in the proper implementation fixed by the Central Government in the budget; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to have broad based budgetary consultations with the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are other fora for the State Governments to have discussions with the Central Government on various economic and financial issues such as meetings of the State Governments with the Planning Commission for Central assistance, discussions of State Governments with respective Finance Commissions, meetings of the inter-State Council, meetings of National Development Council and consultations with the State Governments for formulation of Five-Year Plans etc. These meetings and interaction with the State Governments are of on-going nature.

Transfer policy in the Department of Economic Affairs

†2460. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Section Officers/Assistants/Senior Clerks/Junior Clerks have been working in a particular section for the last ten years in the Department of Economic Affairs;

(b) if so, the total number of such officers and staff, section-wise alongwith tenure thereof and the reasons for the posting in a particular section for such a long period;

(c) the details of transfer policy in the Department;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Department for the transfer of such officers/staff; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) As on date, out of the total strength of 460 in the rank of Section Officer and below, while no officer at the level of Section Officer is posted in any section for more than 10 years, 57 personnel at the level of Assistant/UDCs/LDCs are working in some of the sections for the last 10 years or

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.